

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated September 3, 2004, and the Advisory Action of December 1, 2004, have been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-26, 30-32, 33, and 37 are currently pending in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 19-22, 27-29, and 34-36 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species of invention. Claims 1-4, 7-12, 18, 23-26, 33, and 37 stand rejected, while claims 15-17 and 30-32 have been objected to.

It is proposed that claims 1 and 18 be amended to include the subject matter previously recited in claims 15 and 30, respectively. It is also proposed that claims 15 and 30 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, as well as claims 33-37.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 18, 23-26, 33, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for reciting subject matter which is purportedly anticipated by the description provided by the Precision Pitch Spacing System (PPSS) reference that Applicant cited in the above-referenced application and that is discussed in the Background section of the above-referenced application.

It is proposed that independent claim 1 be amended to additionally recite the subject matter of claim 15, which the Office has indicated is allowable. As such, the subject matter recited in amended independent claim 1 would clearly not be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the subject matter disclosed in PPSS.

Claims 2-4 and 7-12 would each be allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, which would be allowable.

It is also proposed that independent claim 18 be amended to additionally recite the subject matter recited in claim 30, which the Office has indicated to be allowable. In the event that the proposed amendment to independent claim 18 is entered, it is clear that the subject matter recited therein would not be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the subject matter described in PPSS.

Each of claims 23-26 would then be allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 18, which would be allowable.

It is further proposed that claims 33 and 37 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 15-17 and 30-32 recite allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. As indicated, it is proposed that the subject matter of claims 15 and 30 respectively be incorporated into independent claims 1 and 18. It is also proposed that claims 16 and 31 be amended to depend from claims 1 and 18, respectively.

Entry of Amendments

It is respectfully requested that the proposed claim amendments be entered. The proposed amendments do not introduce new matter into the application, nor would they require an additional search. In fact, the proposed claim amendments place the claims in condition for allowance, reducing the number of issues that remain for purposes of appeal.

In the event that a decision is made not to enter the proposed claim amendments, entry thereof upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-14, 16-29, 31, and 32 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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